

STATEMENT OF CONGRESSMAN RON KIND

H.R. 294

June 25, 2003

Mr. Speaker I rise today to express my extreme concern to the recent terrorism conducted by Palestinian extremists against the citizens of the state of Israel. This just weeks after a groundbreaking summit where both Palestinians and Israelis came together and agreed to the Road Map to Peace. I am assured that this body will continue to be a loud advocate of this Roadmap provides provisions for both sides in order to establish much needed peace in the Middle East region.

My colleagues and I mourn today the loss of 22 innocent Israeli citizens who have fallen victim to this terror since the summit. Mr. Speaker, not mentioned in this resolution are the dozens of civilian Palestinians who have also been made victim by the Israeli military response. These lives should also be mentioned in this resolution.

This resolution would have provided a great opportunity to send a clear message that this body, the United States House of Representatives is fully committed, along with the President, in support of the Roadmap for Peace between Palestinians and Israelis. I realize that the Roadmap has its flaws, but I believe it is the only way to get both parties back on track to peace.

The people of the United States stand firm in our commitment to the security and health of the democratic Israel. We must continue to do all we can to promote negotiations to advance the peace process in the Middle East. Together we can root out the terrorism that plagues the region and move forward with one goal in mind, Peace.